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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MEMORANDUM

ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS OF A DESIGN

SUBMITTED BY

MESSRS. H. A. & J. P. SIMS,

IN THE

SECOND COMPETITION

FOR THE

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

WITH

PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF THE SAME.

11755

H. B. ASHMEAD, Book and Job Printer, 1102 and 1104 Sansom St., Philadelphia.

1873.

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PROPOSED MEMORIAL OF THE CENTENARY OF AMERICAN NATIONALITY.

H. A. & J. P. SIMS, Architects.

MEMORANDUM.

In recasting our design for the proposed Centennial Buildings, we have thought it desirable to depart somewhat from the scheme we laid before the Commissioners in the first competition. The changes we have made have been generally as follows:

First.—Taking the Memorial Building out of the Exhibition, and in place of the great nave we before showed through the centre of the mass, erecting one capable of more simple and rapid construction, so that the *whole* of the Exhibition Building would be of a temporary character, although erected of non-combustible materials.

Second.—Erecting the Memorial Building disconnected from the main Exhibition Building, or even in another part of the Park, and by this arrangement facilitating the rapid construction of all the buildings.

Each building could then have its own contractor and its separate gang of workmen.

Third.—Reducing the size of the Memorial Building to about one-fifth that originally contemplated, so that the quality of the building may be improved in proportion as the size is diminished.

OF THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

We have not thought it desirable to change the dual system of classification we presented in our former design, as we have not seen any other which, in our opinion, compares with it in simplicity, common sense and economy of cost. It can be more easily, rapidly, and economically constructed than if curved lines on plan are used. It has been carefully arranged in the dimensions and construction of its parts to use only marketable iron, so that after the Exhibition is over it may be readily sold and without sacrifice. This applies as well to the arched central avenue as to the "spinning shed" roofs of the wings. In our first design the Central Avenue was 100 feet wide and 150 feet high, with galleries on either side 30 feet wide, each. In our present design, the arched roof is 120 feet wide and 120 high, but without galleries. At each end it takes the form of a pavilion roof 120 feet square. We have repeated upon our new floor plan the suggested geographical arrangement which formed part of our first design. At both ends of the Central Avenue, and outside of the wall of the Exhibition, we have added blocks of buildings to contain, on one side of the Entrance Hall, on the ground floor, a large Dining Room, Restaurant, four Private Dining Rooms, and a commodious Ladies' Retiring Room, etc., Kitchen, Scullery and Serving Room, a large dumb-waiter and a servants' serving stairs, with servants' W. C. under. And we have provided a large stairway starting from the Entrance Hall to similar rooms above. Under the stairways are provided Telegraph Offices. The two buildings cor-

responding to those just described, are to contain Committee Rooms and Jury Rooms, and also a Gentlemen's Retiring Room.

Newspaper offices are provided under the large stairways.

To each side of the building we have added a machinery annexe, giving a total space of 80 feet by 1840 feet.

By this arrangement we save one wall and get the whole in one contract, thus materially decreasing the expense.

Boiler Houses are provided, and six buildings for Restaurants on both sides, which Restaurants are intended to be carried on by different nations. In addition, each building contains Ladies and Gentlemen's Retiring Rooms, two Kitchens and Serving Rooms, a Private Stairway and Entrance leading to Committee Rooms above, which are intended for the Committees of the countries whose exhibiting portions are contiguous.

OF THE MEMORIAL BUILDING.

The original instructions of the Commissioners that the Memorial Building *should not exceed five acres* in floor space, we have interpreted not to specify that it *should be five acres*. We have therefore reduced it to about one acre, or, in other words, to such a size that a thoroughly permanent and substantial building can be erected for about the sum of money understood to be set apart for it, to wit: one million and a half of dollars. A building of five acres in extent erected for the sum above named, must necessarily be of a flimsy character—one that would be in ruins before the year 1900.

We cannot think that a building of this kind is the proper one to erect as a monument of a great national fact, but rather that it should be of such materials that it shall exist for a thousand years. Five acres of building for a million and a half of money, at our present prices of labor and materials, leaves an architect no choice but to use stucco, galvanized iron and such other perishable materials, or else to erect a plain and barn-like structure. In this climate stucco is very unenduring, and the age of galvanized iron is fixed as a certainty at six years. No manufacturer of the article will guarantee it in an exposed position for a longer time. All schemes for erecting a Memorial Building covering five acres, and to cost about a million and a half of dollars, necessitate the extensive use of these perishable materials. Would it be a creditable thing for the nation to erect a memorial of the centenary of our nationality of a character that would be so far decayed at the expiration of ten years, that it would be a positive eye-sore, and that the Commissioners of Fairmount Park would pray for its removal as detrimental to the appearances of their domain? Viewing the matter in this light, we have reduced the size of our Memorial Building, so that stone and brick of the best quality, and the best materials only, can be used. We would construct it entirely of American materials, and would endeavor to show in it what the best materials and labor of our day and country are, so that in 1976, when another similar building or monument may be erected, this one can be compared with it, to show how much a hundred years has been able to do in the discovery of

materials and modes of construction, and in the education of labor.

It may be erected in close proximity to the Exhibition Building, and in the general view would group very well with it, but we would suggest that it would be much better to erect it on George's Hill, the highest point in the Park, and over one hundred feet higher than the Exhibition grounds. We understand that the Commissioners of the Park have been consulted on the subject, and will consent to it. This building would be acoustically good, and would prove useful as a place for holding meetings, as suggested by the Committee. It could also be used, and would be appropriate, as a National Museum and as a kind of Mausoleum, and could contain monuments, statues, tablets, and stained glass, to the memory of great men of America, and frescoes of great events in our history.

OF THE ART GALLERY.

The design which we now submit for the Art Gallery is based upon the same principles of arrangement which governed us in the preparation of our former design. As before, we have endeavored to combine in the scheme usefulness and convenience of plan, strength and thoroughly fire proof qualities, the most approved form of lighting, modelled after the successful galleries of the South Kensington Museum, and an exterior which, although severe in its general treatment, will be effective when viewed as a whole, and which, by its parts, unmistakably suggests an

Art Gallery. That the building should show the use it is intended to be put to, is no mean desideratum.

The galleries are twenty in number, sixteen of them 22 feet by 90 feet, and four of them 33 feet by 92 feet.

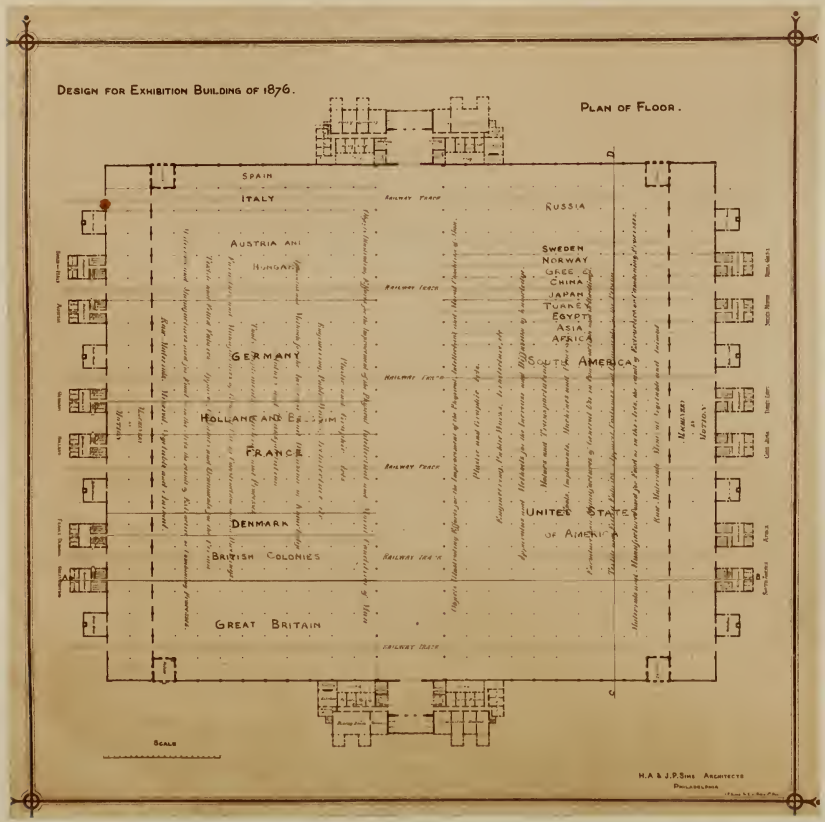
Attention is especially called to the vistas through the galleries, nave and transepts.

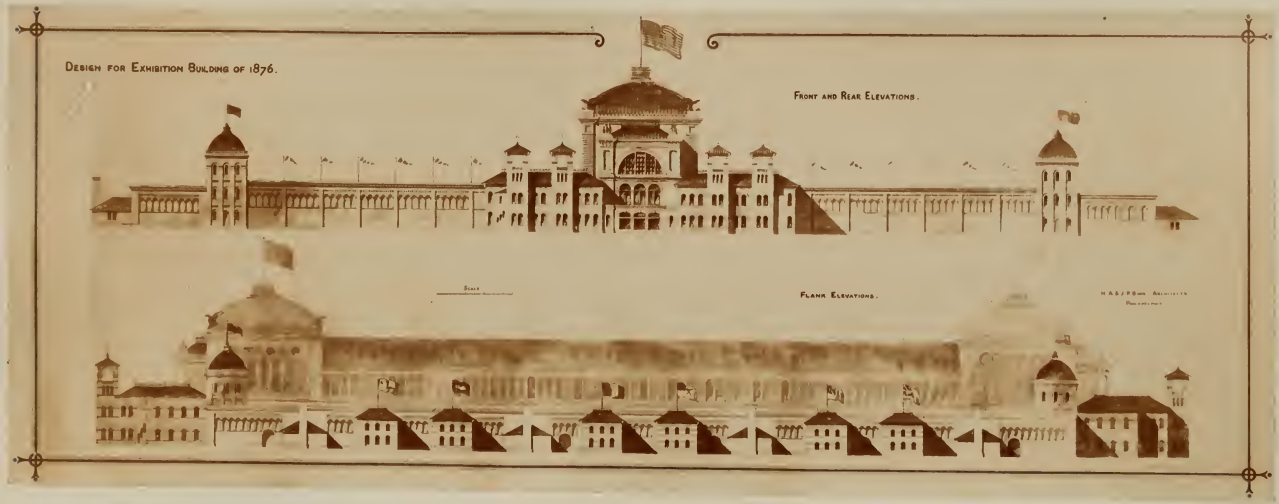
With regard to the placing of the articles to be exhibited, and the fuller description of the lighting, the drainage, etc., we beg leave to call your attention to the description accompanying our first design, a copy of which is hereto annexed.

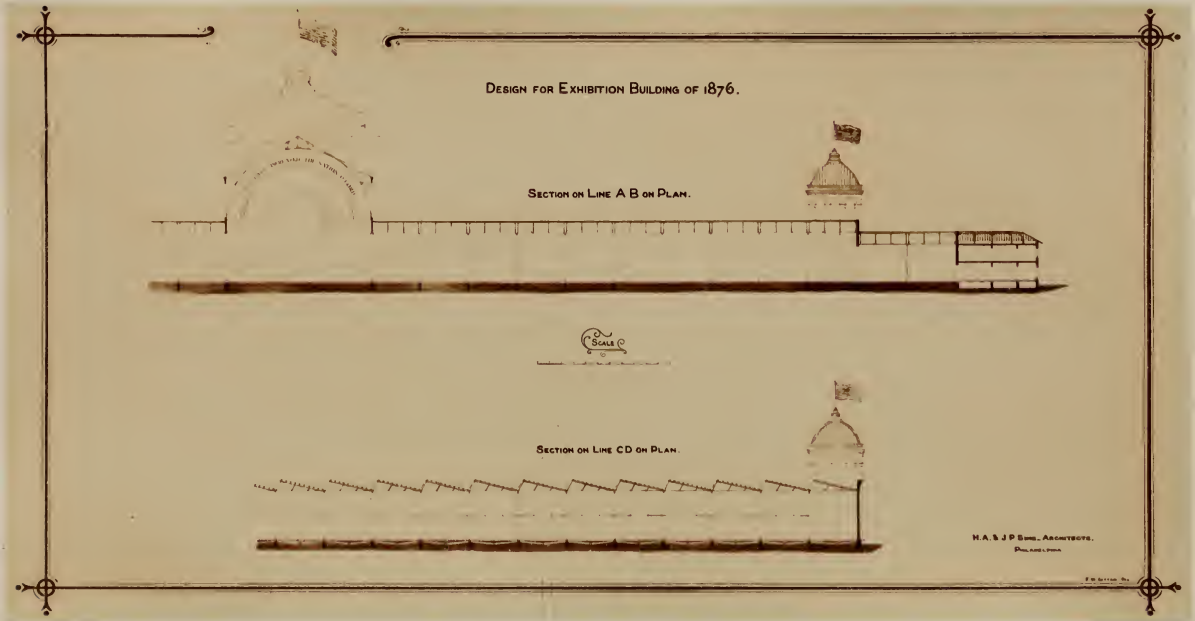
In conclusion, we desire to say that as the second paper of instructions addressed to the authors of the ten premiated designs, says, that the regulations of the first competition are still in force with regard to all details, we have followed the regulations, although unwillingly, as we would have preferred to use color on our drawings.

H. A. & J. P. SIMS,
Architects.

30th September, 1873,
426 Walnut Street.


DESIGN FOR EXHIBITION BUILDING OF 1876.
PLAN OF FLOOR.
SPAIN
ITALY
AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY
GERMANY
HOLLAND AND BELGIUM
FRANCE
DENMARK
BRITISH COLONIES
GREAT BRITAIN
RUSSIA
SWEDEN
NORWAY
CHINA
JAPAN
TURKEY
EGYPT
ASIA
AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RAILWAY TRACK
SCALE
H.A. & J.P. SIMS ARCHITECTS
PHILADELPHIA


Design for Exhibition Building of 1876.
Front and Rear Elevations.
Flank Elevations.


Design for Exhibition Building of 1876.
Section on Line A B on Plan.
Scale
Section on Line CD on Plan.
H. A. & J. P. Sims, Architects.
Philadelphia

Design for Memorial Building

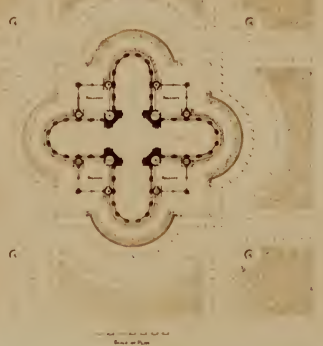
Elevation

Section

H.A. & J.P. Sims Architects
Philadelphia

Design for Memorial Building.

Plan at Level of Windows



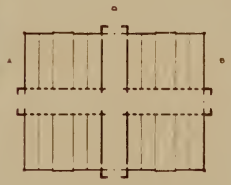
H.A. & J.P. Sims Architects.
Philadelphia.

Detail of Part of Interior of Wall.

Detail of Exterior Elevation.

Design for Art Gallery

Front and Rear Elevation



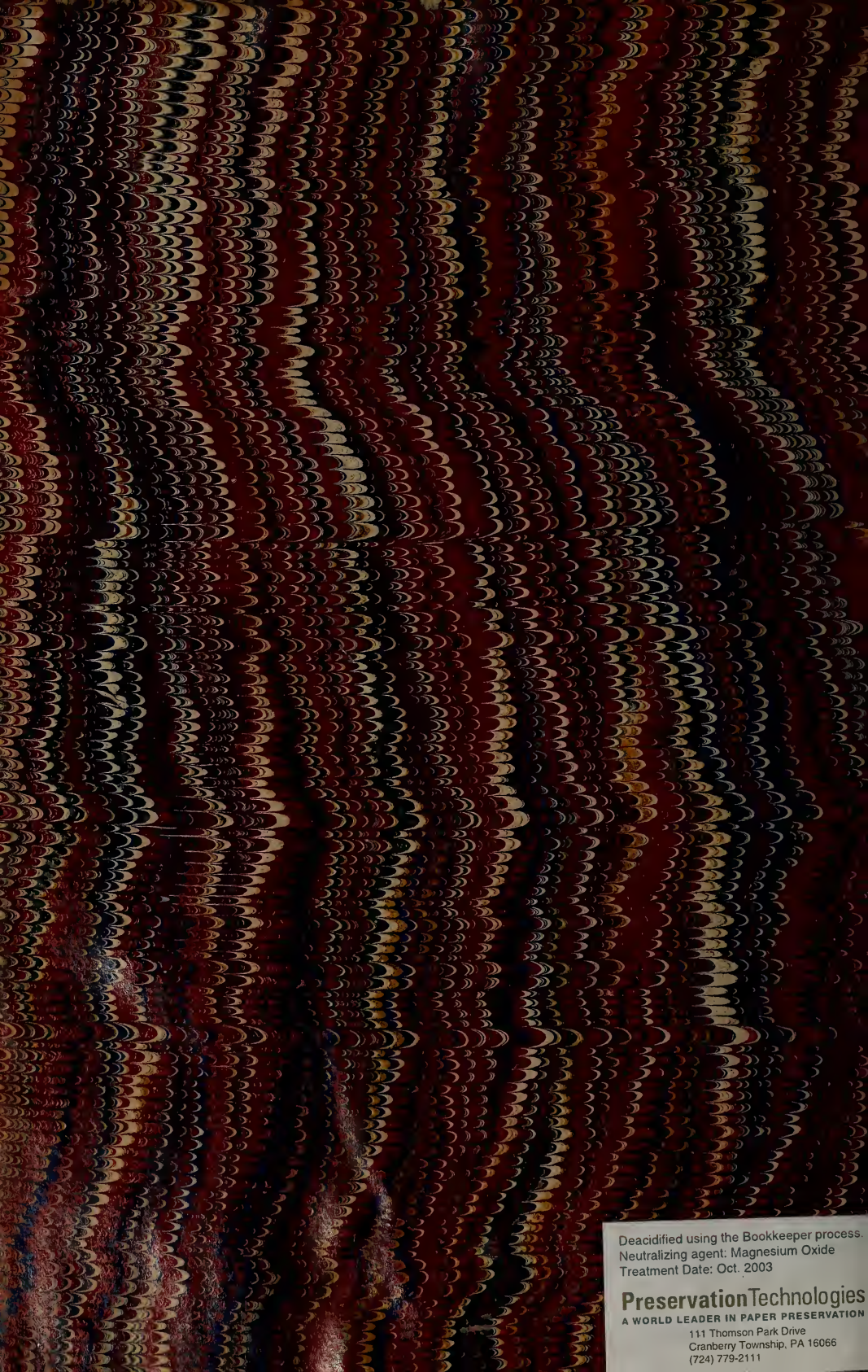
Floor Plan

Side Elevation.

Section on Line A B

H A & J P Sims Architects
Philadelphia

Section on Line C.D.



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